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SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1919.

Ten-Cent Fares?

"The Washington Railway and Electric Company will not stop at charging a 7-cent fare, but may, if conditions demand it, ask as high as 10 cents."

These are interesting and foolish words spoken by William F. Ham, president of the Washington Railway and Electric Company. It is not what the W. R. & E. would charge, but what the public will pay. And Mr. Ham knows this. Yet he indulges in injudicious flights of propaganda which further arouse an ever increasing antagonistic public sentiment rather than allay it.

No doubt the W. R. & E. would charge a 15-cent fare if they believed they could legally do so, and had the assurance that a glib public would pay. And with such extortion in effect the public would soon hear another wail that the revenue of the company is not large enough and fares must be further increased.

As to Mr. Ham, he is the goat of the Washington Railway and Electric Company. His position is not the most pleasant to be had. He knows better than some of the public utterances he has made. But Mr. Ham must listen to a board of directors and stockholders who are looking after their interests first and always and care nothing for public rights. There are many who feel sorry for Mr. Ham.

As to the W. R. & E. Co. and increased fares—Who ever heard of a public service corporation run to the ground by ill-adviced and autocratic officials and mismanagement asking the public to pay their deficit? If the public has ever paid such a price it has been without the knowledge of the public. But in the case of the W. R. & E. the public knows.

Climate and Divorce.

North Carolina has the best record of any State in the Union in the matter of divorce. In six out of its 102 counties there were no divorces in a year. In only one county, Transylvania, did the total exceed the average for the United States which is 112 per 100,000 of population. The rate for the whole of North Carolina is thirty-one or only 36 per cent of the nation's average.

A captious person might insist that South Carolina's record is better as there were no divorces there but the answer is that divorce is impossible there owing to the fact that there are no divorce laws.

The Northern States show far more divorces than those of the South. There are two explanations. One is that in the South divorce is not considered so lightly by the whites as it is in the North, the social lines being more tightly drawn there against an offender guilty of violating the marital vow and the other being that among the blacks who form a large part of the population, divorce is too costly and the easier way is to call the marriage off and let it go at that.

Whether there is merit in the statement that there is more of chastity in warm climates than in cold is open to question but so far as the official records go there are more divorces per capita in Northern Europe than Southern Europe and more in the Northern States of the United States than in the Southern.

There is wide difference in the divorce laws in our States but in all except South Carolina one cause—adultery—is accepted.

Our Daily Bread.

"Our daily bread" is an item in the average family's menu. It comes in wee bits with meats, potatoes, pies, cakes, and all the other foods which come to the table of the wealthy, the well-to-do, and the not-so-very-poor.

But to the poor, "our daily bread" is the main thing on the bill of fare. They eat more bread than any other food. Their bread bill takes a larger proportion of the income than meats, fruits, pastries, vegetables.

That's why the loaf of bread to them is the load of bread, heavy to carry because it costs them a hundred per cent more than it did just a few years ago.

In Great Britain the government pays a portion of the grain cost so that flour—and bread—may be cheaper to the poor. The present wheat price, fixed by the government, is a war price.

It is one of the causes of high-priced bread. Other important factors are the profiteering tendencies of the large flour millers, flour middlemen, and some retailers of flour and bread.

While the wheat growers, flour millers and bread bakers are reaping big profits, "our daily bread" is an increasing load for many to carry.

Too much indulgence in the goose step leads to a state of affairs very similar to the lock step.

The change to water would be less painful if they could put one foot on a rail and pay 5 cents a glass for it.

The doughboys are leaving Germany, but they are leaving a reputation behind.

Peace will revive the American girl's interest in a mere civilian with a job.

It may be that the French boosted prices to the doughboy in an effort to get them as high as American ideals.

The doughboys who yearn to take German brides have the right idea about an alliance to preserve peace.

The loafer doesn't really live longer than a working man. It merely seems longer.

Most of the urge to go back to the farm comes from men who sit in front of an electric fan to write about it.

Mexico asks us to stop the smuggling of arms into Mexico, and to promise not to send troops across the border again. If we grant the first request, the other will take care of itself.

The Washington Herald's Poet

Today Rhymes on

Once in a Life.

By EDMUND-VANCE COOKE.

Once in a life comes a day like this!

The world is a sheen

Of gold and green

And the field-flowers bend and kiss.

The earth is a carol of color and bloom,

The wind is the lute of a wild perfume,

And they sing down sorrow and care and strife,

Once in a life once in a life!

Once in a life comes a night like this!

The moon above

Is the mother of love

And the dew is drenched in bliss,

I am dust of earth, I am fleck of sky,

I am soul of Eternity drifting by,

As the stars hum low and the crickets sigh

"Once in a life once in a life!"

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THE PARAGRAPHER'S NEWS VIEWS.

The Kansas Vigilantes will shoot their straightest to keep I. W. W. from meaning. I waste wheat—Boston Herald.

The impression in Paris that Mr. Root has become the national leader of the Republican party is excusable—Springfield Republican.

Some friend of Mr. Hobson's might suggest to him that several dozen of H. K. Thaw's lawyers are alive and active—New York Sun.

The enraptured Danish prince says Americans are "dumb men." The drinking is so weak, he wanted something strong to say—Atlanta Constitution.

When buying a supply of cheaper postage stamps it is difficult to feel so deeply grateful to a benevolent government as to forget the high prices you are paying for everything else—Kansas City Journal.

In Rome in ancient times the Praetorians put up the empire at auction and knocked it down to the highest bidder for their favor. This seems to have been the kind of election Peru has had—New York World.

You know, of course, what is meant by "the pactors." They are the fellows who got up the cost of living—Dallas News.

Present conditions in Turkey make us anxious to know when the President expects to put the date into mandate—New York Evening Sun.

Our Mail Bag

Before and After.

To the Editor of The Herald:—The Era Nuova of Trieste reminds us very opportunely of the one word which preliminary to the hour of danger. In August, 1914, when Italy declared her neutrality, the French press was unanimous in its expressions of gratitude.

The Lantanes said: "The neutrality of Italy enables us to concentrate all our forces on the German front. Vive l'Italie!"

The Gaulois: "We shall never forget the day when the Adriatic must once more become an exclusively Italian sea."

The Liberte: "Nothing shall be forgotten! For the present, only one word: Thank you, France!"

The Journal: "France will never forget!"

The Clemenceau L'Homme Libre: "In the Mediterranean as well as on the continent there is place for the French people and the development of the two Latin nations." Then began the exhortation for intervention in the conflict.

The Figaro: "The eyes of all Europe are turned to Italy. And Minister Pichon wrote: 'The membership of Austria is inevitable... and who can profit thereby from this Italy?'"

And Mr. Clemenceau himself said: "The day has come when Italy can take in the new Europe the place which is due her."

And Delcasse: "France and England are not opposed to any aspirations presented by the popular Italian sentiment."

Nor was the English press less fervid in its affirmation of the Italian rights and its exhortation for intervention. And after Italy entered the war, oh the clamor!

The Temps said: "It is not only a strong reinforcement that Italy in arms brings to our side. It is the guaranty of a complete and speedy victory."

The Daily Telegraph: "England has nothing against Italy's desire to be the mistress of her home in the Adriatic."

The Journal: "Italy has set free a large number of our troops. Italy may prove herself worthy of greater praise, but no act will be more praiseworthy than this one, in the eyes of France who loves her."

The Morning Post: "This intervention calls for sacrosanct obligations on the part of English statesmen to make sure that Italy shall never remain isolated."

The Daily Mail: "We shall finally see a united nation, once her new frontiers are established, revive in the Adriatic, in the Near East and in Asia Minor the glory and prestige of Venice and Genoa."

Thus wrote the French and English papers during the war, that is, as long as the German menace was pending. Now that the war—the menace—is over, these same papers seem to have forgotten Italy entirely.

A Sad Chronicle.

The Idea Nazionale, of Rome, recites the following sad chronicle of the Peace Conference:

1. France, England and the United States have formed a defensive alliance against Germany; as Italy, they have neither interpellated her nor invited her to join the new post-war entente.

2. France, England and the United States added to the preliminary treaty of peace to Germany article 14, stipulating that the treaty shall be valid with the ratification of France, England and the United States on the one hand and that of Germany on the other. The ratification of Italy, who joined in signing the preliminaries, has been considered unnecessary for the validity of the final treaty.

3. France, England and the United States have proceeded to the distribution of the former German colonies, assigning most of them to France, some to England, and a very small portion to Japan. Italy has thus been excluded from participating in the distribution as well as in the assignment of the colonies, and she has been granted, in fulfillment of article 13 of the Pact of London, the right to rectify the frontiers of her colonies in Eritrea, Somalia and Libya.

4. An Ethiopian mission, accompanied by the French minister at Addis Abeba, has been sent to Paris to ask the conference for French protectorate over Ethiopia.

5. France, England and the United States, in the distribution of the mandates in Asia Minor, in violation of the agreement of St. John, of Modiana, which assigned, among other things, Smyrna to Italy, have excluded Italy from the Eastern Mediterranean to favor even Greece, and they would give us mandatory power over some inland region in Caucasus, of some economic but of no political importance whatever.

6. France, England and the United States, in the policy of succession to Austria-Hungary, have proceeded to reconstruct a Danubian-Balkan confederation upon the ruins of the erstwhile Austro-Hungarian Empire destroyed by the Italian army.

7. France, England and the United States are ready to comply with the Pact of London, but integrally; that is, with the assignment of Fiume to Croatia and with an acceptable compensation. The United States remain unmoved and unmoved in their total veto.

A READER.

BOOKDOM - By Lonjac

It is a pleasant surprise to find at the outset of what is deemed the slack season in publishing a week that presents so large a number of interesting volumes as that which the current one has to show. Foreign novelists come to the fore with another of the rapidly appearing works of Ibanes, and the French edition of Romain Rolland's "Colas Breugnot," a tale that was written before the war in a mood that the conflict brought to abrupt reversal. "Jean-Christophe," Rolland informs us in the introduction to the new volume, had been created in solemn temper, and reflected little of the gladness of life. After its completion a reaction in the author's feeling set in, and he turned his pen to the production of a work that should show that good humor and gaiety still had their place in France.

Thanks Is Dedicated. "Bonhomme vit encore," was the thesis he set out to demonstrate in these sketches of Bourgoyna, and despite the tragedy of the years that followed their writing he still has heart to hope that the grandchildren of the present in their maturity will proclaim the truth of that belief. The work of another Frenchman, favorably known in this country as in his own through the impassioned meditations in the trenches published during the course of the war, figures in the current list, and under the form of fiction rather reveals the personality of the author, "Le Capitaine," by Antoine Redier, which like Rolland's book, has come across the seas in the original French, is ostensibly a series of incidents and conversations, but actually an expression of the writer's views on the abstract subject of authority.

Mrs. Deland Scores. Of French-though not, of course, in French—is Margaret Deland's "Small Things," a volume of admirable sketches depicting the temper and character of France at war, some of which at the time of its publication in magazine form aroused considerable comment. Another book of essays that promises much enjoyment to the lover of that most leisurely of all the byways of literature is "Chimney-Pot Papers," by Charles Brooks, while a volume that is sure to be welcomed by all readers of biography is the interestingly illustrated work on the life of the late Ralph Waldo Emerson, translated by Charles Downer Hazen, a new volume of Charles Doyl's "History of the Great War," and a chronicle of the Yankee Division.

Youth and Sport. The famous authority on athletics, Walter Camp, advises parents to teach fair play to their sons and so send them out into the world fully equipped against failure. In his latest book published by the Harpers, "Keeping Fit All the Way," Mr. Camp says: "Teach your boy fair play and may the best man win. Teach him that the true sportsman beats little, crows gently when in luck, puts up his hands, and shuts up when beaten; that he should be strong in order to protect his country. A boy may over-emphasize his sports, but he will get over that. They tell us about the good old times when boys at college spent all their time in study and loved one another. There never were any such times. The town-and-country sports took the place of sports, that is, puts up his hands, and shuts up their youth at 50 will be able to do so by following Mr. Camp's advice given in 'Keeping Fit All the Way.'"

The Child Dramatist. Prudence Bradish is a firm believer in awakening the dramatic instinct in children at an early age. In her book, "Mother Love in Action," published by Harper & Brothers, she points out the fact that if the little ones have their love of make-believe trained along proper channels they will not only be kept out of mischief but will also be a source of interest and amusement to those around them. The family and the neighbor's children can get a lot of fun out of representing a picture, the audience trying to guess what it is, says Prudence Bradish. "I have seen a child convulse an audience with a spontaneous representation of a woman at the telephone, a train conductor, a doctor, a school teacher, a hostess." In "Mother Love in Action" is given human advice to the mother who wishes to bring up her children by love and not by fear.

When you get home to dinner late the grub is cold, that's true; But Friend Wife will be glad, I'll state.

To make it hot for you. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

"And what is this place?" "This is Reno. The Limited stops here twenty minutes." "Oh! I've heard of Reno." "Of course you have." "Is twenty minutes long enough to get a divorce?" —Birmingham Age-Herald.

It appears that not long ago, at a gathering of artists a certain futurist painter approached Louis Wain and said: "Why do you always draw cats, cats, nothing but cats?" "It is true that I draw cats," returned Mr. Wain, fixing the futurist with his eye, "but at least I do not call them landscapes." —Pearson's Weekly.

He-I was on the beach this morning alone with my thoughts. She-What perfect solitude.—Dallas News.

"Did you know you were behind in your board?" asked the keeper of the prison. "No, I didn't," replied the boarder. "You owe me for a month." "Oh, I know that, but I considered I was just that much ahead." —Yonkers Statesman.

This is interpreted to mean that the learned professions are to broaden greatly in their opportunities. The seers foretell a great tide of emigration to Europe within the next few months.

The stars that indicate the return of many foreigners to their native lands give credence to the prophecy that there will be a labor shortage and a continuance of high wages, especially for unskilled workers.

Investigations will occupy attention for the planets that increase curiosity and encourage inquiry are strong in influence.

There is a sign today that is threatening to public men in that they may be hampered in their best endeavors.

Among the reforms that are to mark the new era are changes in funeral customs, which belong to the old order of things.

Next month may see a democratic movement among the people of Great Britain, for Neptune is in rising position.

England may experience anxiety over the depreciation of securities and the inadequacy of public revenues.

Chicago is one of the American cities that has the best possible prognostications for the future.

A great impetus to art will be apparent in the United States during the next few months, astrologers predict.

Persons whose birthdate it is should be careful of money matters in the coming year. They have a fair outlook.

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WELL! AIN'T NATURE WONDERFUL!

"Did your son get the Croix de Guerre in France?"

"No. He wasn't sick a minute all the time he was there."—Detroit Free Press.

Flatbush—Ever try the fighting game?

Bensonhurst—Well, I've played croquet with my wife, if that's what you mean."—Yonkers Statesman.

Elderly One—A wife should defer to her husband's wishes, my dear.

Younger One—I have done so ever since he told me his one wish was to see me happy.—Boston Transcript.

"What is it, Sonny?"

"I'm tryin' to 'member what ma wanted me to git in this jug."

"What jug?"

"Geel! I forgot the jug."—Browning's Magazine.

"That show is traveling under false representation."

"Why, how is that?"

"The poster says chorus of twenty and there's not one in it under forty."—Cornell Widow.

He—Why is Adeline so angry with the photographer?

She—She found a label on the back of her picture saying, "The original of this picture is carefully preserved."—Edinburgh Scotsman.

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